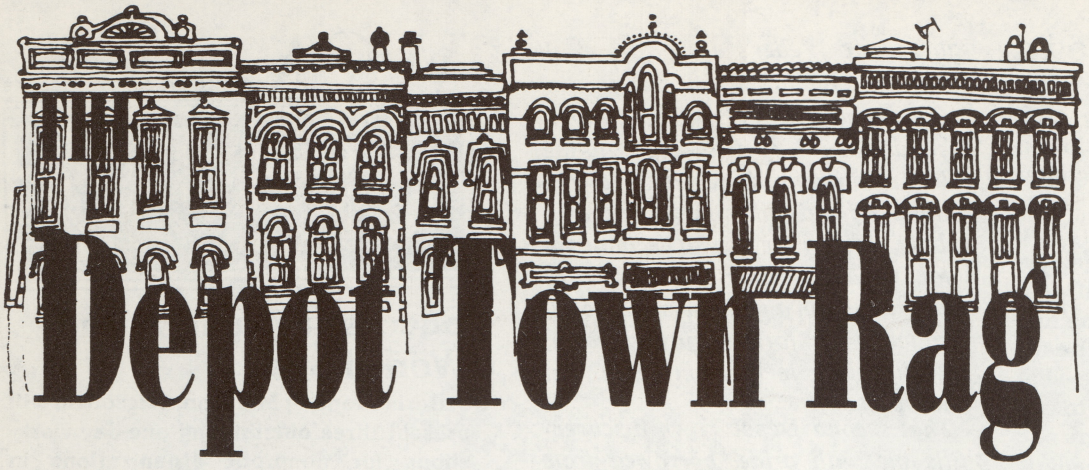


Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

MARCH 1984 MEETINGS
Merchants - 7:30 March 8
Association - 7:30 March 15
Foundation - 8:00 March 22
...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

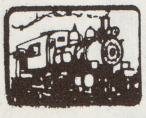
NO DOUBT at ROSEMARY'S

Watch for a creative merge of WHEN IN DOUBT, INC. and their down-the-block neighbor ROSEMARY'S CORNER. They will soon be ensconsed together in ROSEMARY'S location with a great new concept: THE GRAND TRUNK, LIMITED. And, what's going into the former location? Another excellent antique outlet which formerly operated an excellent shop in Plymouth.

Depot Town Association, Inc.
Dear Rex;

Please accept this check as my membership dues for the DTA. With it comes my admiration for you creativity, dedication, sense of humor, and community spirit. May you meet with success in your ventures and may obstacles serve only to strengthen your determnation to make Depot Town successful. I hope for an opportunity to visit Depot Town in person and see the places and meet the people I have heard and read about. Until that time I send my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,
Sonja Headings
3519 N. Perch Ln
Merced, CA 93340



Bridge Site is Major Attraction

Most of us thought the temporary pedestrian foot bridge was only for east/west foot traffic, but Don Wardel suggests we add platforms wide enough for lawn chairs and dispense mosquito dope at each post. Just about everybody else has also discovered that the foot bridge's primary function is to provide a safe vantage point for all of us sidewalk superintendents. From that new point of view virtually all of the most exciting demolition and construction happen at eye-level and only a few feet to the south. February observers claim that the recent bridge work has been a bigger neighborhood attraction than any one single event of the Heritage Festival. This realization now leads us to ask: what is being planned to commemorate the opening of the CSB? The Ypsilanti Players noted the old bridge's passing with "Cross Street Bridge is Falling Down", but is anyone getting ready for the eventuality of the new bridge's opening? If the bridge's closing has proven to be an enormous boost to business, how then will we prepare for all those coming down to see the handsome new bridge?

No Longer Just Passing Through, DEPOT TOWN is A Destination !

Businesses up and down the block report greater sales, more customers and increased foot traffic now that the Cross Street Bridge has been closed and the street sees only traffic which intends to stop and shop. We knew we had a good thing with those train gates closing several times each day, but who would have suspected that closing the bridge could also have been a positive factor in increasing shopper flow in this commercial district?

CUL DE SAC WORKS

In the French, a cul de sac (bottom of the bag) was a polite name for "dead end" street. City planners often designed such traffic interruptions into residential neighborhoods where hurried through-traffic was not desirable. Commercial districts tend to grow up straddling "penetrator" routes, hoping to capitalize on impulsive buyers who might respond to street-side advertising. Depot Town has not known such an ethic since the Normal students quit taking the trains and walking up to campus. We've been around the corner ever since, and have adapted to a "back street" mentality.

FOOD CO-OP ON RIVER STREET

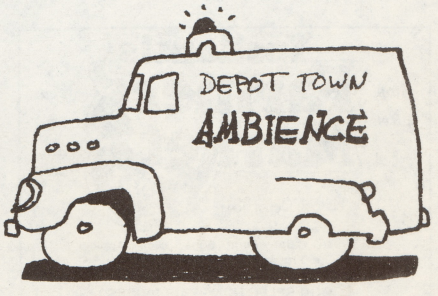
Depot Town has a new neighbor right around the corner. The Ypsilanti Food Co-Op has moved to the Millworks building located at 312 N. River.

With all the excitement in town, there hasn't been much time to get aquainted. But the doors are open and now would be a good time to stop in, say hello, and check out the clean, new store.

The Food Co-Op provides a selection of goods including fresh produce, dairy products, herbs & spices, teas & coffee, grains & beans, as well as a few surprises. The food is provided in both packaged and bulk forms for everyone's convenience.

Check the ad in this issue for the store hours and make a special note of the earlier opening time on Saturday mornings to better suit the needs of the Farmer's Market shoppers.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-Op is a member owned and operated establishment where everyone is welcome through their doors.



Railroader Leaves Town

John Waite always hated to hear us tell this story about him, but it's true. And, for any who missed previous tellings, here it is again with a new chapter added:

John called, one day, and said, "You don't know me, but...I've been following your progress down there in Depot town and I'd like to get in on the fun, myself. I've worked for the railroads most of my life and think maybe what you folks need, in addition to rehabbers, shopkeepers, bartenders and publicists, is a real railroader!"

"Let's talk", we said, and "talk" we did!

John turned out to be the same kind of optimist as most of our neighbors and came up with a lot of silly, romantic and creative ideas. Most of them worked. One of his first was to bring a one-hundred-year-old caboose to the block. The railroads said it couldn't be done. John did it anyway.

The DTA celebrated the Caboose's fourth anniversary in Depot Town last Valentine's Day. John and a few others were on board to hail its passing and to hear his new plan.

His most recent project was to take the Michigan ARTRAIN to California and back. And, now that the ARTRAIN is gearing up for an exciting new season, John is going back to California himself--without the train.

John's farewell message follows. We wish him luck and thank him for his enthusiastic optimism and are actively searching for a new railroader.

To you who love Depot Town's people, places and things as much as I do...

Finding the right words is not easy; few of us can say they "grew up" in Depot Town once, let alone twice.

The Depot Town I first knew as one of huge locomotives, high school sack lunches eaten on depot baggage carts, delivering the "Ypsi Gyp" to the poultry place that is now John Pappas' studio, Fulford Produce, the "snake pit"; and trying to make the ingredients in a caramel-butterscotch sundae at Weber's Drug Store all come out even,...

The Depot Town I "grew up" with a second time, I re-discovered in the midst of a dramatic rebirth, growing almost Phoenix-like out of it's own rubble, well on the way to becoming a vital, vigorous center of a variety of interest, but, on a more personal level, a place of comfort and joy, a warm, friendly place to hang my coat, hat and heart.

That second Depot Town discovery fills me with pride, borrowed from those who continue to make Depot Town viable and vibrant. You know who you are, and the many levels on which you operate. I love you all, and hope you don't mind sharing some of your rightfully earned pride with me.

Thank you, Depot Town, and carry on! Let that pride continue to show, keep Depot Town that precious place where I'll always hang some of my heart, if not my hat and coat.

John Waite

STEAM TRAIN:

Cont.

Two photo-run-by opportunities are provided in which passengers de-train. The train then backs up nearly half a mile, gathers steam and speed and races past with smokestack belching and whistle blowing, only to stop half-a-mile up track, reverse and return, whereupon the passengers climb back on board and continue on their way. All this foolishness proves that we are never too old to play with trains, even when they are full-scale.

Ypsiilanti/Toledo bus travel will be posh, also, in two Greyhound cruisers which will meet those with reservations in the Farmers' Market plaza. Convenient parking is recommended in the large lot next to Frog Island.

Spend as much time as you wish picking out your wardrobe for your own Orient Express party, but don't waste any time sending in your reservation. Only eight-four places will be sold. After that you can only wait until next year's trip. The small profit realized from group sales for an entire coach will benefit your favorite publication: THE DEPOT TOWN RAG.

All Aboard!

WCA Washtenaw Council for the Arts

Successful Fundraising Workshops

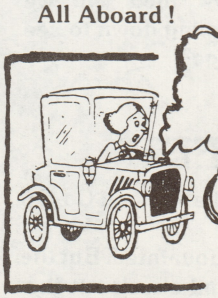
Boris Frank of Madison, Wisconsin will present three outstanding one-day workshops for nonprofit organizations in Washtenaw County.

MARCH 14: Grantsmanship: A Realistic and Practical Guide to Successful Fundraising.

MARCH 14: Proposal Writing: How to Write a Winning Proposal.

MARCH 15: Local Fundraising: A Matter of Survival... A Complete Guide to Raising Money in your own Community.

Costs are $45 for one workshop, $90 for two, or $120 for all three. The Washtenaw Council for the Arts and the American Contemporary Choral Ensemble are cooperating with Mr. Frank to bring these workshops to Ann Arbor. For Information call WCA 996-2777 or Darby Line 668-0247.



CITY RADIATOR
11 E. CROSS
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
483-2248

Jacqueline's Boutique
☆☆☆☆
25 E. Cross St. Depot Town Ypsilanti, Mi 483-8150
Gently Used Women's Clothes 10-5 Tue. - Fri. 10 - 4 Sat.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
Stop By! Weds & Sat 7-2
in historic Depot Town
★ Fresh Cider, Farm Eggs, Mich. Apples!
★ Fruits and Vegetables, Nuts!
★ Home Baked Goods - Coffee Shop!
GOOD SELECTION - FAIR PRICES

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different
COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM
"To your good health"
FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

Editor:

After reading your February article concerning Depot Town Merchants and the Cross Street Bridge, I felt obligated to write you. Evidently as of that writing you were unaware of the recently formed "tear it down, leave it down" committee that now exists in Depot Town. Our committee is made up of Depot Town Merchants that got together to look at the positive effects of the bridge being closed for several months. At our first meeting we came up with so many positive ideas we founded the "tear it down, leave it down" committee. This committee is an unofficial off-shoot of the Depot Town Merchants, which is an off-shoot of the Depot Town Accosiation not to be confused with Foundation, Inc. However, we are acting independently, not actually under the auspices of the D.T.A. Now that you understand where we are coming from, let me list some of our positive ideas that lead to the forming of this new committee.

1. *It is now possible to "cross" Cross Street without making a mad dash for it.*
2. *Business is up! All those cars whizzing by were just whizzing by, not stopping or affecting our business.*
3. *Our customers are now using new routes to come to Depot Town and are now aware of lots of extra parking in the gravel lot between Forest and Cross.*
4. *Savings from not building a new bridge could be given to Depot Town for paving existing parking lots, planting trees, Christmas lights, Freight House renovation, Caboose renovation and all those other dreams we are always trying to raise money for.*
5. *Depot Town has become even "Quainter" (who ever thought THAT was possible?) without the rush of traffic each time the light changes.*
6. *We could now have angle parking because traffic on Cross Street has slowed considerably which will cut down on possible accidents.*
7. *Our committee is in favor of leaving the foot bridge. That way we can all fish off it and have weekly Fish Frys by the river.*
8. *In winter months we can flood the end of the street for ice skating and hockey.*
9. *Everyone now knows where the recycling center is because they drive by it on the detour.*
10. *Since the street will probably no longer be a trunk line we may be able to get permission to close it in the summer for huge block parties.*
11. *We now have signs showing people how to get to Depot Town that we couldn't get the city to put up before. Our committee is lobbying for all detour signs to be left up indefinitely.*
12. *All the Merchants that didn't attend the D.T.A. monthly meetings because they didn't know where the caboose was, now know where it is, thanks to the detour.*

This is just a cross section of our ideas. We will meet again as soon as the old bridge is completely demolished or whenever we feel like it again. Feel free to stop in. Our meetings are open to the public.

Depot Town Merchant
Chairman
"Tear it down, leave it down" committee

FOOD SELLERS AT HERITAGE FEST:

Attention:
SIDETRACK
AUBREE'S SALOON
PRONTO PIZZA
OLD TOWN RESTAURANT
DELI SHOPPE

re: 1984 HERITAGE FESTIVAL

If only antique autos were shown on the street and most businesses did what they wished to show off their wares on the sidewalks,

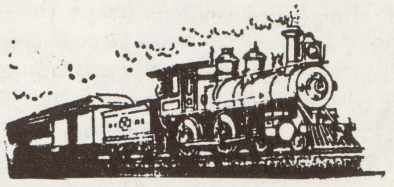
1. Would you want to move food services to the sidewalk? YES NO

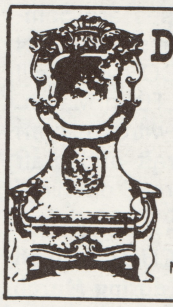
2. Would you favor outside food vendors who would give a % to DTA and the Heritage Festival? YES NO

(Such vendors must represent non-profit organizations and pay 10% gross to YHF)

3. Would you like to continue this discussion with the above businesses as a local committee? YES NO

4. Would you rather just deal with each other through this kind of communication? YES NO




DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E. Cross St. (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780
Furniture Stripping
Mention RAG ad & get 10% Discount

Ted's
AUTO ELECTRIC
ALTERNATOR SERVICE - TROUBLE SHOOTING
307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan
Phone 483-1238

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

Grand Trunk Ltd.
15 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Mi, 48197
Formerly
When In Doubt, Inc.

and everything nice

RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS
27 EAST CROSS

PRONTO
PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
483-4555
SUN-THU 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2
Free Delivery
on orders over $4.00

DTA 16 FEB. 1984

7:30 PM at ROSEMARY'S CORNER with coffee.

Minutes were O.K.

$292.95 on account
247,97 in general account
44.98 in RAG account
0.00 in Jazz account

JAZZ: EMU wants to be included on accounts. Wait until end of winter series and negotiate at the March meeting.

Nancy Begun from River Street introduces herself.

GRAND TRUNK, LIMITED will merge with ROSEMARY'S CORNER in March.

STEAM EXCURSION TRIP will be held Sunday, May 6th, at $40 for adults as a fund-raiser forTHE RAG. Ask the DELI SHOPPE if they will make box lunches. Should we develop the sister city concept with Bellevue, Ohio?

HERITAGE FESTIVAL: 10% of gross sale goes to Festival Committee. Where to put the Jazz Tent? Service waivers possible. Antique Autos in the street, rather than art booths? Encourage locals to wear 19th Century costumes. Should we sponsor food concessions in addition to regular food services on the block? Discussion will continue at Merchants' Meetings.

GREAT TRAIN RACE. Not a line item of the DTA, but Gary McKeever's own project with DTA blessings. Race made $200 first year, $300 second, $450 last year, all donated to DTA. O&W Distributors wishes to co-sponsor again this year and should realize $600 gain for DTA.

DDA: City Body wants to be deleted. Issue is not on City Council agenda and remains tabled while Councilmember Homel seeks more information. Mayor Murdock will be invited to talk to interested Foundation members and DTA at earliest possible date.

RAG REPORT: $225 from 1983 ads has been paid. $50 still out.
$162 paid to date on 1984 ads.

CBC/DTA join again in Easter Egg hunt and games in Riverside Park? Contact Christine Blinn or Rex Richie.

FLOWER SHOW at the Freight House? Second year of talking about this being an annual Spring event. Will it get in the way of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation flower sale? Investigate.

Adjourned: 9:04

Keeping An "I" Out

The tables at AUBREE'S (up and down) look a little bare lately since there are not printed napkins, coasters or matchbooks with their logotype of a mustachioed bartender holding a frosty mug of beer above the words "burgers, booze, billards"

We ran that display ad in THE RAG for over a year and never noticed it ourselves, even though we are known for doing our best proof reading after publication.

Sandee and Bill French (and THE RAG) hope our readers will understand. We suspect that many may have read this far and still not noticed the missing "i" in "billards". OHHH. How embarrassing. Watch for the new design on AUBREE'S tables soon.

Editorially, we've always feared an embarassing typographical error might impugn the veracity of our monthly publication, and have been chased around the block more than once by nightmares of typo-hypo, but well-read wags in Our Town concur: Typos make for more creative reading.

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons

Miller's SINCE 1896 ICE CREAM

Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes

42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7546
"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.

483-0339 Depot Town

Standard Printing Co,
JOB PRINTING - PROGRAMS - PUBLICATIONS

Letterpress & Offset
35 E. CROSS ST.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Grand Trunk Ltd.
Formerly Rosemary's Corner
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994

bd
B & D RETAIL PLUMBING and HEATING, INC.
Richard C. Laflin
310 N. River - 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Depot Town Rag

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.
Rex Richie, president
(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)
Annual dues:
Associate member $10
Regular member $25
Sustaining member $100

DTA/WEMU
Presents

THE TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND
SATURDAY
March 10TH
INFORMATION ANYTIME
487-2229 WEMU RADIO

STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION
Sunday, May 6, 1984

Depot Town, Ypsilanti

Bellevue, Ohio

STEAM LOCOMOTIVE NKP 765
Tool Car
21 Cars
14 Coaches
1 Food Service car
6 First Class Coaches

The DEPOT TOWN COACH:
#716 "The Buckeye Lake"
84 Passengers, Tuscan Red Paint
Airconditioned, Rest Room
Smoking Lounge

Schedule:

Depart Depot Town	8:00 am
Depart TOLEDO	10:00 am
Oak Harbor	11:00 am
Fremont	11:45 am
Photo-run-by	
Arrive BELLEVUE	1:00 pm
Lunch on your own in Downtown Mad River NKP RR Museum	
Depart BELLEVUE	4:00 pm
Fremont	4:30 pm
Oak Harbor	5:00 pm
Photo-run-by	
Arrive TOLEDO	6:45 pm
Arrive Depot town	8:30 pm

Second Steam Excursion to Benefit THE RAG

Take an all-day rail fan trip behind one of the greatest steam locomotives ever built (the Nickle Plate #765), pulling a string of twenty-one vintage coaches and first-class cabin cars which have been lovingly restored by their private owners and assembled at Bellevue, Ohio by members of the Mad River and Nickle Plate Railroad Museum and you'll be treating yourself to one of the most marvelous adventures in the world of railroading today.

When Depot Towners made that first pilgrimage last year, they found a bunch of friendly folk who behave with old trains much the way people up here behave with old buildings. Architecture notwithstanding, Bellevue is a delightfully Victorian town, itself; about the same size as Ypsilanti, but surrounded by fertile farmland. The convergence of several rail lines has drawn their effort to the town's favorite project, the Railroad Museum, which is the excursion train's loading and unloading point and only one block from the central business district which offers many fine restaurants. Our favorite was McLean's which seemed to be Woodruff's Grove and the Sidetrack rolled into one.

Travelers who wish to spend more time in the Museum climbing in and out the more than two dozen cars on exhibit may wish to order a box lunch - or bring their own - to eat on the train.

1983 was Depot Town's first trip with the Mad River people and this year's trip should prove how much we've learned since that first experience. No one complained about our first coach, perhaps because we were used to our own 100-year-old caboose, but this trip will see eighty-four Depot Towners ensconsed in one of the newest cars in the consist, with air conditioning, a smoking lounge and a rest room. Passengers are free to roam all the coaches and the tool car just behind the engine and tender to photograph and tape record this unique 200 mile rail-fan experience. (The six extra-cost first class cars hold private staterooms and are not open to "train walkers".) Cont. on page 2

Bus transportation from Depot Town to Toledo by GREYHOUND

BOX LUNCHES AVAILABLE
sandwich
Relishes
Piece of cheese
Apple
Jumbo Chocolate chip cookie
$3.50 from THE DELI SHOPPE
Order with tickets,
pick up at Greyhound boarding

RESERVE TICKETS BY MAIL ONLY:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

#_____ at $40 ea. _____
adults

#_____ at $35 ea. _____
children

#_____ lunches ea. $3.50 _____

TOTAL _____

DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Depot town, Ypsilanti, Mi 48197

RAGTIME

THE DELI SHOPPE introduces a new soup & sandwich bar this month. The bar will include Fresh & Fully Cooked Corn Beef (cooked at the Deli) Turkey Breasts, Pastrami, a variety of cheeses and relishes. All this for only 3.99 daily between 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Come in and build your own sandwich while witnessing the building of the new Cross St. Bridge.

DEPOT EXCHANGE will accept your favorite piece of furniture for stripping or complete refinishing. Mention "THE RAG" and receive 10% off.

A store wide winter clearance sale is in progress at JACQUELINES BOUTIQUE now through March 10th. ALL winter clothing is reduced. Stop in and save.

MILLER'S ICE CREAM PARLOR has a variety of specials to help you welcome in spring. ALL month hand packed pints of your choice are on sale at $1.19, reg $1.39. Celebrate St. Patricks Day with ½ gal. of Chocolate Chip Mint at 1.69, reg. 2.89, or a double dip of Chocolate Chip Mint for the price of a single. Enjoy any of their 27 flavors!

Two Depot Town businesses are combining to form a new business. WHEN IN DOUBT & ROSEMARY'S CORNER will become GRAND TRUNK LTD in March. Located at 15 E. Cross they will carry both card & gift items, plus craft and craft supplies. Watch for their grand opening.

RIVER ART WORKS SUNDAY SPECIALS DURING MARCH-15% off all work taken in on Sundays during March (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th) Hours 1-4 every Sunday. Weekly hours Mon-Thur 10-6:30, Fri 10-8, Sat 10-5.
Exclusive of all other coupons.

AS OTHER SEE US:

(The writer of the following piece is a ninth grade student at Ann Arbor's Community High School. Nina Mallette knows about us mostly by reading THE RAG and, perhaps, has a few insights to its meaning mainly because the editor is also her teacher. With this publication, Nina is sure to get an "A"! Ed.)

Take a bunch of old historians, artists, philosophers and political candidates who never quite made it and stick them in a rundown section of Ypsilanti called "Depot Town" and what do you get?

The Answer: a block of "five-generation" businesses located in beautiful 19th Century buildings, that's what.

Six years ago, Depot Town was considered dangerous and unhealthy to all people except a few loose women and heavy gamblers who hung out on the block in a few rundown bars. Then, suddenly, things began to change. People started to discover that, hey, this place wasn't so bad after all, maybe a little fix-it here and paint there, and maybe, just maybe....

Now Depot Town is a thriving little city within a city, where farmers come every Wednesday and Saturday to shop and you know just about everybody you pass on the street. It's friendly little saloons and restaurants and quaint shops and markets make it a delightful place to visit, to shop, eat, or just spend the day lazing around.

The people of Depot Town are equally as charming. If you've ever read the De. Seuss book "Horton Hears a Who", you might be able to relate these people to the Whos in Whoville trying to be heard. Only in Depot Town, they sort of come off as wild, middle-aged married couples living in a cutesy fairy tale land and having a swell time doing it. Depot Towners have fun putting down the hustle and bustle of Ypsilanti and the plasticene look of Briarwood by saying they were "beaten off the path, ignored by urban renewal schemes, etc."

Instead of trying to keep up with the changing times, they center on things like remodeling a new storefront with an old look, or participating in things like "Boomer Days", a celebration on the Huron River for bums and hobos, or plays in the pavillion on Frog Island like "Cross Street Bridge is Falling Down" put on by the Ypsilanti Players, participating in the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival each summer, or writing for the DEPOT TOWN RAG, whose editor is the community's own Tom Dodd..

Depot Town' slow, lazy style and way of life are a refreshing change from the regular, hectic schedule that most of us have.

The YPSI FOOD CO-OP is now in Depot Town
483-1520
M-F 10-7
Sat. 9-6
312 N. River

BIG BOB'S
MAGAZINE AND FANTASY EMPORIUM
50 East Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(313) 485-4930
• Comics (old and new)
• Magazines
• Paperbacks
• Celebrity Posters & Buttons
• Candy, Pop, & Cigarettes
• Gaming Supplies (D & D)
Hours: Mon-Thurs 12-6 pm. Fri. 12-7 pm. Sat. 10-6 pm
Closed Sun.

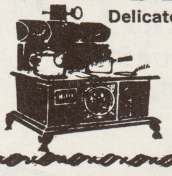
Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDLECRAFT FRAMING OF OBJECTS ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

SALOON
Aubree's

HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

Burgers-Booze-Billiards

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE

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